To conjugate an -RE verb in the present tense, remove the infinitive ending and then add the appropriate endings. For example, here are the present tense conjugations for the regular -RE verbs *descendre* (to descend), *perdre* (to lose), and *vendre* (to sell):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | Ending | [*descendre*](http://french.about.com/library/verb/bl_descendre.htm) > *descend-* | [*perdre*](http://french.about.com/library/verb/bl_perdre.htm) > *perd-* | [*vendre*](http://french.about.com/library/verb/bl_vendre.htm) > *vend-* |  |
| je | -s | descends | perds | vends |  |
| tu | -s | descends | perds | vends |  |
| il | - | descend | perd | vend |  |
| nous | -ons | descendons | perdons | vendons |  |
| vous | -ez | descendez | perdez | vendez |  |
| ils | -ent | descendent | perdent | vendent |  |
|  | | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **attendre** to wait (for) | **perdre** to lose |
| **défendre** to defend | **prétendre** to claim |
| **descendre** to descend | **rendre** to give back, return |
| **entendre** to hear | **répandre** to spread, scatter |
| **étendre** to stretch | **répondre** to answer |
| **fondre** to melt | **vendre** to sell |
| **pendre** to hang, suspend |  |

To form the past participle of a regular –re verb, drop the –re and add a *u.*

To form the passé composé, you need to conjugate the present tense of an auxiliary verb (avoir or être) and tack on the past participle at the end.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | aux. verb | past participle |  |
| j’ | ai | attendu |  |
| tu | as | attendu |  |
| il | a | attendu |  |
| nous | avons | attendu |  |
| vous | avez | attendu |  |
| ils | ont | attendu |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **attendre** **→ attendu** | waited (for) | **perdre** **→ perdu** | | lost |
| **défendre** **→ défendu** | defended | **pretendre → prétendu** | | claimed |
| **\* descendre** **→ descendu** | descended | **rendre** **→ rendu** | | gave back, returned |
| **entendre** **→ entendu** | heard | **répandre → répandu** | | spread, scattered |
| **étendre** **→ étendu** | stretched | **répondre** **→ répondu** | | answered |
| **fondre** **→ fondu** | melted | **vendre** **→ vendu** | | sold |
| **pendre** **→ pendu** | hung, suspended |  |  |  |
| **\*** auxiliary verb is être |  |  |  |  |